

**MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
APRIL 21, 2006**

The State Board of Education met for its regular meeting in Room 12 of the Legislative Plaza, Nashville, Tennessee, at 8:30 a.m. CDT, on April 21, 2006.

Present..... 10	Absent.....1
Mr. Fielding Rolston, Chair	Mr. Jim Ayers
Mr. Flavius Barker	
Ms. Carolyn Pearre	
Mr. Richard Ray	
Dr. Jean Anne Rogers	
Dr. Valerie Rutledge	
Ms. Sharon Thompson	
Dr. Melvin Wright	
Dr. Richard Rhoda, Ex-Officio	
Mr. Matthew Fillmore, Student Member	

Chairman Rolston called the meeting to order and welcomed members of the audience.

He then recognized Board member **Sharon Thompson** as the recipient of the Rotary Award for Teacher Excellence (RATE Award). This is a prestigious award and Chairman Rolston conveyed the Board's congratulations to Ms. Thompson. He read comments that were received from some of Ms. Thompson's students.

I. Consent Items

- A. Adoption of Agenda**
- B. Approval of Minutes from January 27, 2006**

ACTION: **Mr. Ray** moved acceptance. **Dr. Rutledge** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Report Items

- A. Title I Distinguished Schools for 2005-2006**

Dr. Julie McCargar, Department of Education, presented four Tennessee schools recognized as Title I Distinguished Schools for 2005-2006.

Smyrna Primary School in Rutherford County and Sunny Hill Elementary School in Haywood County have received the recognition of State Title I Distinguished Schools.

Smyrna Elementary in Rutherford County and Westwood Elementary in Manchester have been recognized as National Title I Distinguished School Awardees for 2005-06.

B. *Family and Community Engagement Initiative 2004-2006*

Dr. McCargar reported on the Family and Community Engagement Initiative which incorporates the State Board of Education's Parent Involvement Policy.

In Fall 2004, the Department of Education partnered with the Tennessee Schools Board Association to educate key leaders within school districts of these new requirements and the Department's Family Friendly Schools initiative. Each district was asked to register a team of at least 6 members, including a school board member, Director of Schools, parent, community member, Title I director, and principal, for a year long professional development series on developing and implementing effective family and community engagement policies and plans. Each district team gathered data about the involvement of parents and community members in the district's schools, analyzed that data, and developed family and community engagement policies and plans targeted at boosting student achievement. All districts have received full approval of their parent involvement plans.

C. *Framework for Evaluation and Professional Growth*

Mr. John Scott, Department of Education, reported on the effectiveness of the revised Framework for Evaluation and Professional Growth. The revised Framework maintains the integrity of the original model but improved both the rigor and structure of the model and provides an increased emphasis on content, teaching skills, academic content standards, and accountability in the classroom.

Ms. Thompson stated that she believed this was a process that involved too much paperwork that should be condensed. She also stated that teachers need training on the Framework.

Chairman Rolston asked if this information had been shared with the Advisory Council on Teacher Education and Certification. **Mr. Scott** responded that this information had not been shared with the Council but would be presented at their next meeting.

Dr. Rutledge suggested that this information also be provided to graduates in education.

III. *Action Items (First Reading)*

A. *Tennessee Teacher Licensure Standards: Theatre K-12*

Ms. Karen Weeks, State Board of Education, presented the proposed licensure standards. The standards revise existing standards adopted by the Board in 1989. They would enable teacher candidates to teach across the grade span, in elementary grades where an emphasis is on creative drama and the secondary grades where an emphasis is on process and production. The standards would become effective for candidates seeking licensure no later than September 1, 2010.

ACTION: **Mr. Ray** moved acceptance on first reading. **Dr. Rutledge** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

B. *Tennessee Teacher Licensure Standards: Special Education Hearing PreK-12*

Ms. Weeks then presented the proposed licensure standards which update standards adopted in 1989. They would enable teacher candidates to teach students with hearing loss in the general curriculum and the expanded curriculum, using a variety of communication systems. The standards are consistent with national standards and the IDEA. The standards would become effective for candidates seeking licensure no later than September 1, 2010.

ACTION: **Mr. Ray** moved acceptance on first reading. **Ms. Thompson** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

C. *TCAP-Alternative Portfolio Assessment (PA): Scoring Guide Cuts for Proficient and Advanced*

Ms. Malinda Tuttle, Department of Education, reported that in April 2005, the TCAP Alternate Standards Committee met for the first time to discuss the development of alternate performance indicators on which TCAP-Alt assessments would be based. Concurrently, the TCAP-Alt Advisory Committee met to discuss the need for changes to the focus of the TCAP-Alt Rubric to place more of an emphasis on student academic achievement, rather than programming opportunities available to the student. The need for changes to the rubric to meet the needs of students in nontraditional educational settings (e.g. homebound) was also discussed.

The focus on portfolio assessment is critical because the August 2005 guidance clearly indicates that out-of-level assessments as they have been used within TCAP is not acceptable for inclusion in proficiency or participation rates for the purpose of AYP calculations.

ACTION: **Dr. Rutledge** moved acceptance on first reading. **Dr. Wright** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Action Items (Final Reading)

A. *TCAP-Alt: Alternative Performance Indicators and Revised Scoring Rubrics*

Ms. Tuttle presented for final reading the revised indicators and rubrics used in assessing students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.

ACTION: **Vice Chair Pearre** moved to approve. **Dr. Rutledge** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

B. *Trade & Industrial Education: Audio Technology, Automotive Technology and Collision Repair*

Mr. Ralph Barnett, Department of Education, presented for final reading the revised standards for Automotive Technology and Collision Repair and Audio Technology.

ACTION: **Mr. Ray** moved to approve. **Dr. Rutledge** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

C. *Rule Changes for Curriculum Standards: Business Technology Education and Trade & Industrial Education*

Mr. Barnett presented for final reading the alignment of Rules and Regulations with new standards for Computer Operating Systems and Hardware.

ACTION: **Mr. Ray** moved to approve. **Dr. Rutledge** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

D. *Master Plan for Tennessee Schools – Fiscal Year 2007*

Chairman Rolston presented the *Master Plan for Tennessee Schools* for final reading. He stated that the plan is organized into nine key result areas: early childhood education, primary and middle grades education, high school education, technology, teacher education and professional growth, accountability and assessment, school leadership, school health and safety, and funding.

Chairman Rolston reported that the Board has identified the following objectives as priorities for FY 2007:

- Improve literacy for all students in grades K-12.
- Approve a plan for reforming Tennessee High Schools.
- Redesign how educational leaders are trained.
- Develop accountability policies to ensure that assessment is used to improve student learning and demonstrate accountability.

- Implement the recommendations of the Basic Education Program Review Committee.

ACTION: **Mr. Ray** moved to approve. **Dr. Wright** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

E. *Tennessee Teacher Licensure Standards: School Counselors*

Dr. Mary Jo Howland, State Board of Education, presented for final reading revised requirements for student teaching for school counselors who wish to become teachers and revises provisions related to alternative licensure.

ACTION: **Dr. Rutledge** moved to approve. **Dr. Wright** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

F. *Alternative Preparation for Licensure Policy*

Dr. Howland presented the proposed policy revising alternative licensure procedures for final reading.

ACTION: **Dr. Rutledge** moved to approve. **Dr. Rogers** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

A. *Educational Leadership Commission*

Dr. Gary Nixon, Executive Director of the State Board of Education, presented two nominees for the Educational Leadership Commission. This Commission is considering how to initiate serious efforts to improve the preparation and support of school principals. Districts, schools and universities depend on the state to take the lead when it comes to these issues:

- how prospective principals are chosen, prepared and licensed;
- what induction and professional development principals will receive to support and enhance their practice; and
- promoting local conditions that will allow principals to lead successful schools

Dr. Nixon presented the names of **Senator Charlotte Burks** and **Representative Barbara Cooper** for inclusion to the membership and asked that the Board approve the nominations.

ACTION: **Mr. Ray** moved to approve. **Ms. Thompson** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

A. *Basic Education Program*

Dr. Nixon then presented changes to the Basic Education Program components. TCA 49-1-302(a)(4)(A) requires that any changes to the Basic Education Program formula approved by the Board be approved by the Commissioners of Education and Finance and Administration. Those changes must then be submitted to the Senate and House Education Committees for review and recommendation. Finally, to become effective, the changes — as a whole, without amendment — must be approved by resolutions of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

The budget contains a recommended improvement of \$18 million in the “at-risk” component of the BEP formula. This improvement will result in an estimated funding ration of 30% of K-12 ADM for “at-risk” students.

The budget contains a recommended improvement of \$2 million in the ELL (English Language Learner) components of the BEP formula. This improvement will result in an estimated improvement in the ELL pupil / teacher ratio from 50:1 to 45:1 for ELL teachers and an estimated improvement from 500:1 to 450:1 for ELL translators.

ACTION: **Dr. Wright** moved to approve. **Dr. Rutledge** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

I. *Teacher Education Units and Program/Licensure Areas*

Mr. Scott presented for final reading the teacher licensure programs at Union University, Johnson Bible College, Lambuth University, and Lincoln Memorial University.

ACTION: **Mr. Ray** moved to approve. **Dr. Rutledge** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

V. *Teacher License Revocations*

Mr. Rich Haglund, General Counsel, State Board of Education recommended acceptance of Mr. Dye's voluntary surrender of his license and revocation of the following licenses:

- A. *Nancy C. Brown-Gearhiser***
- B. *Phil D. Drake***
- C. *Roderick D. Dye***
- D. *Regina A. Robertson***
- E. *Billy J. Salyers***

ACTION: **Vice Chair Pearre** moved to approve items **V.A.-E.** **Dr. Rutledge** seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows.

	Yes	No	Absent
Jim Ayers			X
Flavius Barker	X		
Carolyn Pearre	X		
Dick Ray	X		
Jean Anne Rogers	X		
Fielding Rolston	X		
Valerie Rutledge	X		
Sharon Thompson	X		
Melvin Wright	X		
Matthew Fillmore	X		

VI. Special Recognition

A. *Recognition of Dawn Werner*

Commissioner Lana Seivers, Department of Education, introduced **Dr. Dawn Warner** -- Tennessee's Teacher of the Year. Dr. Warner is a K-6 Title I teacher at Fairmount Elementary School in Sullivan County. She asked Dr. Warner if she would like to address the Board.

Dr. Warner spoke to the Board about her experiences since becoming Tennessee's Teacher of the Year and asked if the Board would consider allowing Tennessee Teachers of the Year to serve on the State Board of Education.

VII. Adjournment

Chairman Rolston thanked the Board members for their thoughtful deliberations and announced that the Board will meet next on **August 31, 2006**, and adjourned the meeting.

Commissioner Seivers asked that she be allowed to recognize **Mr. John Scott** who will be leaving the Department of Education. She stated that it was a "job well done" and thanked him for his service.

Chairman Rolston congratulated Mr. Scott on his new job and said that the Board would miss his presentations and adjourned the meeting.

Approved by: _____ Date: _____